


STATE OF ARIZONA
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TO: All DEMA Employees in Maricopa County

FROM: MG David P. Rataczak, The Adjutant General 

DATE: 23 May 2001

SUBJECT: Operation Ozone 2001

As you may remember from last year, Operation Ozone is our air quality effort conducted each summer by Capitol Rideshare and the Governor's Office for the purpose of reducing ground level ozone pollution. This form of ozone pollution causes acute respiratory problems when inhaled, even at very low levels, and is formed when vehicle emissions are combined with sunlight and temperatures in excess of 90° F.

Once again, you will have the opportunity to make a difference through your participation in Operation Ozone 2001. Thanks to your participation in last year's program we have achieved a significant milestone – four consecutive years without a violation of the federal one-hour standard. This accomplishment not only demonstrates the real progress we've made in improving air quality but also allows us to further show the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Arizona's attainment success, alleviating the potential for federal sanctions that could adversely impact our economy. Thank you for contributing to this achievement.

While we have made tremendous progress, it is critical that we maintain our "clean" record and stay in compliance with the federal one-hour ozone standard. If the Valley has even one violation this summer, we will be out of attainment and face federal sanctions.

I need your help again this summer. I strongly encourage you to participate by taking the Pledge to reduce your commute; especially on High Pollution Advisory Days. You should be receiving your Pledge Card soon. If you are not already using an alternate mode of transportation, I want to encourage you to reduce your commute miles by carpooling, busing, or telecommuting (if available). Even if you are only able to reduce your commute one-day a week, it will make a difference. And, if there are any Ozone Alert Advisory Days, please take immediate action and do not drive alone to work that day. If possible, telecommute or carpool. Even if you are not a regular carpooler, perhaps you can find someone who you can share the ride with on Ozone Alert Days (should we have any).

Other activities for Operation Ozone include participating in the Clean Air Campaign "Summer Clean Air Challenge" and other contests and information tables that will be conducted. Other ozone pollution reducing actions include re-fueling your car after 4:00 pm, not using drive-thru options, and bringing your lunch or eating at a cafeteria or restaurant within walking distance, thereby avoiding noontime driving. Please, take the time this summer to help our quality of life and improve the air that we breathe. I know I will. If you have any questions about Operation Ozone, please call Bob Franklin, x2642 for state employees or CMSgt Dan Cochran, x2792 for federal employees. With your help we can make a difference. Please pledge your support.